



FOOD FOR THOUGHT SERIES

(Lunch table conversations)

Coordinator:

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These lunch table conversations are intended to provide an opportunity for people to meet with other colleagues from around the region to discuss topics that interest them while they eat. Participants have the choice to self-assign themselves to topics and tables of their choice. So, those who do not wish to be involved or who want to just catch up with math friends will have plenty of opportunity to do that as well. Here is a list of the topics for this EPADEL meeting:

Requiring Algebra is a Civil Rights Issue? – A Mystifying Claim.

A college chancellor recently claimed on National Public Radio (NPR) that requiring students to take algebra is so unfair that it is a civil rights issue. What are your thoughts on this? How will you respond to your colleagues from other disciplines at your institution if any of them makes this claim or a similar one? The link for the article is at <http://www.theblaze.com/news/2017/07/21/college-chancellor-requiring-students-to-take-algebra-is-a-civil-rights-issue/> What experiences, suggestions and challenges do you have with debunking these kinds of misconceptions about math? What other questions or ideas do you have for this topic? **Moderator:** Dr. Agashi Nwogbaga

How 4th Graders Made Me a Mathematician Again & Other MAA FOCUS Articles:

There are many interesting articles in MAA FOCUS. In Vol. 37 No. 4 August/September 2017, there was this fascinating article about how fourth graders helped make someone a mathematician again (pages 14 – 15). Chat with the MAA FOCUS editor and share your thoughts on this and other MAA FOCUS articles. **Moderator:** Dr. Jackie Jensen-Vallin (Editor, MAA FOCUS).

Teaching Calculus with Technology:

Appropriate use of technology in the classroom is becoming more important in facilitating teaching and learning. What recent technologies have been developed for the math classroom in general and calculus in particular? What specific technologies have you used? What benefits or drawbacks have you found? What prevents you from using technology more fully? How are you dealing with technological challenges? What other questions or ideas do you have for this topic?

Undergraduate Research:

Faculty members enhance their teaching and contributions to society by involving undergraduates in research (Council on Undergraduate Research). What are the challenges of undergraduate research? Do you have suggestions for addressing these challenges? What recent undergraduate research projects have taken place at your school? Can you suggest examples of potential undergraduate research ideas/topics from the different areas of mathematics? What other questions or ideas do you have for this topic?